

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00
FBOE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 SP-02 OC-06
OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01
SS-15 SY-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 NEAE-00 PC-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /107 W
-----074036 271933Z /75

Z O 271900Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7595
SECDEF FLASH
DIRNSA FT MEADE MD FLASH
CINCPAC FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3242

SITREP 8

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN: ALSO FOR USDAOS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
SUBJECT: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

REF: KABUL 3239

1. AT 2200, THE "REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY FORCE OF AFGHANISTAN"
PROCLAIMED: "THE FOREIGN POLICY IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
RESPECT AND RESERVATION OF THE ISLAMIC RELIGION, DEMOCRATIC
AND INDIVIDUAL INDEPENDENCE, AND THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE COUNTRY. THE FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE BASED ON POSITIVE
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NON-ALIGNMENT, SUPPORTING PEACE ALL OVER THE WORLD, FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND RESPECT TO THE UNITED NATIONS."
IT ALSO ASSURED ALL FOREIGNERS THAT IT ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE SAFETY OF FOREIGNERS IN AFGHANISTAN.

2. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THE MODERATE LANGUAGE -- AND THE
FACT THAT THE NEW REGIME HAS NOT YET USED THE TERM

"SOCIALIST," WE ADVISE AGAINST ANY PREMATURE CONCLUSION THAT THE NEW LEADERS ARE NON-COMMUNISTS. THE COUP APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY DAOUD'S ARREST OF THE KHALQ LEADERSHIP. SOME SOLDIERS PASSING BY IN TANKS HAVE GIVEN THE FIST SALUTE. THE FIRST RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT MENTIONED "THE PASSING OF POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE MASSES." END COMMENT.

3. A RECENT RADIO BROADCAST ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUP LEADER WHO MADE THE FIRST RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT WAS COLONEL ABDUL QADER, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE. HE IS BEING CALLED "CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE FORCE." WE HAVE INFORMATION FROM ONE SOURCE, DATED NOVEMBER 16, 1977, INDICATING HE MAY BE A KHALQ PARTY MEMBER.

4. IT IS NOW FAIRLY QUIET IN KABUL AT 2245. ONLY SPORADIC GUNFIRE IS HEARD. WITH THE DAWN MIGHT COME A RENEWAL OF MOP-UP OPERATIONS. AS OF TONIGHT, IT APPEARS THAT THE REBELS ARE EFFECTIVELY IN CHARGE.

5. COMMENT: IF DAOUD HAS INDEED BEEN KILLED IN OFFICE, HE FULFILLED A LONG AFGHAN TRADITION. THE LAST AFGHAN RULER TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH IN OFFICE WAS AMIR ABDUL RAHMAN IN 1901. END COMMENT.

6. UNLESS EVENTS DETERMINE OTHERWISE, THIS WILL BE THE EMBASSY'S LAST SITREP UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING. SURROUNDED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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VICTORIOUS REBEL TROOPS, WE ARE BEDDING DOWN IN THE EMBASSY FOR THE NIGHT.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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